(g) the system Government adopts to comply strictly with the same?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (g) Yes, Sir. As per the report of the Committee on "Faculty Development in Technical Education" constituted by the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) under the Chairmanship of Prof. P. Rama Rao, the total shortage of teaching staff in epgineering & technology, during 2005-06, was about 40,000. This shortage was estimated based on the AICTE norms of teacher to student ratio as 1:15.

The power of appointment of teachers is vested with the concerned Universities/ Institutions. The recruitment of faculty in the institutes is a continuous process and all out efforts are made by the institutes to fill up the vacant posts. The prescribed recruitment procedure is followed by all Central Government funded institutes to recruit competent faculty with strong academic background and with sufficient industry experience wherever considered relevant. Many institutes also have suitable strategies to attract and retain their quality faculty members, which include providing of residential accommodation, medical facilities, initial research grants, financial support for participation in national/ international conferences and suitable schemes of sharing of consultancy charges. Considering the shortage of well-qualified technical faculty in the country, the age of superannuation of Teachers in Central Institutions has been enhanced from 62 years to 64 years. They can further be reemployed after superannuation till the age of 70 years.

No centralized data base is maintained of the number of people leaving for further studies or jobs abroad. It is not true that one of the main reasons for the faculty shortage is brain drain. However, it does contribute to some extent to the shortage of good students in the Master and Doctoral programmes in the country as well as to the shortage in faculty positions.

There is no one standard of international norm with regard to the student teacher ratio for the engineering colleges.

Issue of elector's photo identity cards

*150. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is. a fact that the Government had decided to issue electors' photo identity cards to all the citizens of the country;

(b) if so, the number of voters covered so far and supplied with the identity cards, State-wise; and

(c) by when the remaining citizens are likely to be covered?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) As per the provisions of Representation of the People Act, 1950 and the Registration of Electors Rules, I960, only Indian citizens who attains the age of 18 are eligible for inclusion into electoral roll and only persons registered as such can obtain an Elector's Photo Identity Card.

(b) A Statement showing the status of number of electors issued with Voter Identity Cards and also the percentage of electors provided with the Identity Cards, as intimated by the Election Commission of India is *(See* below).

(c) The Election Commission of India has intimated that it has been the endeavour of the

Commission to achieve 100% coverage under the Elector Photo Identity Cards (EPIC) scheme, and even though the efforts have been constantly made to cover all the electors under the EPIC scheme, various reasons such as natural calamities, engagement of administrative machinery, which also attend to works other than election work, apathy of voters themselves are some of the reasons why progress has been uneven.

Statement

Status for the progress of Elector's Photo Identity Card

Sl. No.	State/Union Territory	Total General Electors w.r.t. 01-01-2007 roll	Electors issued with Defect-free Identity Cards	% of EPIC (Column 3 & 4)
1	2	3	4	5
1	Andhra Pradesh%	49,848,636	35,278,198	70.77
2	Arunachal	672,916	160,094	23.79
3	Assam^ and #	17,410,558	0	0.00
4	Bihar	52,816,478	31,296,720	59.26
5	Chhattisgarh	14,457,317	4,223,015	29.21
6	Goa	1,010,207	764,774	75.70
7	Gujarat	36,528,716	30,343,437	83.07
8	Haryana	12,157,316	11,288,378	92.85
9	Himachal Pradesh	4,542,339	3,807,917	83.83
10	Jammu &	6,284,658	4,276,715	68.05
11	Jharkhand	16,195,000	8,409,060	51.92
12	Karnataka^^	41,610,955	32,069,242	77.07
13	Kerala	20,929,146	20,929,146	100.00
14	Madhya Pradesh^^	38,446,833	28,473,060	74.06
15	Maharashtra	66,656,743	30,560,179	45.85
16	Manipur ##	1,701,410	763,481	44.87
17	Meghalaya	1,246,640	1,160,116	93.06
18	Mizoram	583,231	484,388	83.05
19	Nagaland ### and**	1,268,3-59	576,725	45.47
20	Orissa	27,235,112	19,661,504	72.19
21	Punjab	16,858,308	15,693,997	93.09
22	Rajasthan	34,789,794	26,721,193	79.89

% Except 13 ACs of Hyderabad where EPIC programme is in progress.

** Except Data of elector of AC No. 4, 46, 49 & 50 in Arunachal Pradesh

^^ Date of Elector w.r.t. 1-1-2006 roll.

In the first phase in 1996-97, total 67,479 EPICs were prepared but not distributed. The issue of EPIC programme is currently not underway in Assam.

A total of 1033733 EPICs were issued for the photography done till 1997. As per the survey conducted by the Dy. Commissioners 90% of them are not available with the electors owing to snatching away of EPICs by the underground elements.

In Nagaland the EPIC% dropped down from 57.06% 45.47% after Intensive Revision W.r.t. 1-1-2005.

1	2	3	4	5
23	Sikkim	305,992	222,766	72.80
24	Tamil Nadu	39,014,179	35,689,655	91.48
25	Tripura	2,005,704	1,997,757	99.60
26	Uttar Pradesh	1,14,344,263	91,300,000	79.84
27	Uttarakhand	5,961,350	5,298,723	88.88
28	West Bengal	49,458,794	46,630,101	94.28
29	A&N Islands	243,188	214,241	88.10
30	Chandigarh	354,130	354,130	100.00
31	D&N Haveli	133,250	95,645	71.78
32	Daman & Diu	90,003	60,447	67.16
33	Lakshadweep	40.241	37,617	93.48
34	NCT of Delhi	10,123,095	6,262,840	61.87
35	Puducherry	711,595	711,595	100.00
	TOTAL:	686,036,456	495,816,856	72.27

Expansion of RGCCPP, Kayamkulam

*151. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the foundation stone for expansion of Rajiv Gandhi Combined Cycle Power Project (RGCCPP), Kayamkulam, was laid by Hon'ble Prime Minister in 2005;

(b) if so, the details thereof, including the present status and the proposed period of completion of work;

(c) the steps Government would take to start the expansion work and to complete it as per the schedule;

(d) whether uncertainty in the sustainable availability of gas at affordable rates had been resolved; and

(e) if not, the reasons herefore?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(c) to (e) NTPC Limited proposes to expand the existing 360 Mega Watt (MW) Naphtha-fired, Rajiv Gandhi Combined Cycle Power Plant (RGCCPP) by adding 1950 MW capacity (nominal) in Stage-II based on Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG/Natural Gas (NG) as fuel.

The Feasibility Report for 1950 MW Stage-II expansion of RGCCPP had been prepared considering Re-gasified Liquefied Natural Gas (RLNG)/Natural Gas (NG) to be sourced through International Competitive Bidding (ICB) route. NTPC Limited invited international bids for supply of RLNG/NG. The process could not be completed due to inadequate/ incomplete 'response.

Subsequently, it was decided to earmark 2.1 Million Tonne per Annum (MMTPA) out of the expected quantity of LNG to be sourced by Petronet LNG Limited (PLL) at its proposed